



Taking Action
to Prevent Crimes Against Children

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Welcome to the second issue of *Safe Online Surfing News*, a newsletter dedicated to highlighting the achievements of students participating in the FBI-SOS Internet Challenge

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FBI-SOS

Safe Online Surfing News

A resource for teachers, school administrators and members of the FBI community who are working to keep students safe online

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Back to Back FBI-SOS Champions

Students at Valley View Middle School in Edina, MN achieved the highest scores for both the January and February editions of the FBI-SOS (Safe Online Surfing) Internet Challenge and were awarded two National FBI-SOS Trophies by the FBI. During the awards ceremony, Special Agent in Charge Ralph Boelter greeted the auditorium full of students and said, "I am honored and proud to be here this morning to recognize the students of Valley View Middle School for their achievement in earning the highest score in the national FBI-SOS Internet Challenge."

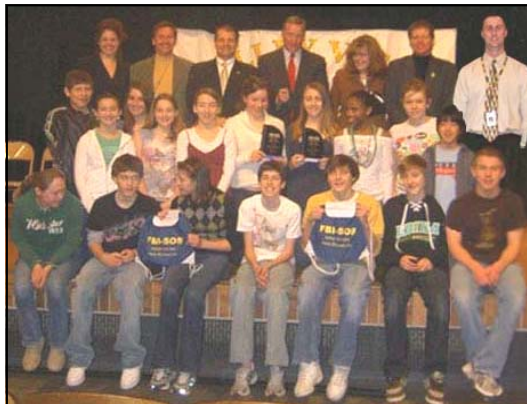
The consecutive wins, a first in FBI-SOS history, came after Jon Buckley, a literacy, research and technology (LRT) teacher at Valley View, was introduced to the program at a statewide technology conference sponsored by TIES (Technology Information Education Services).

Joan Froehle, FBI Community Outreach Specialist in Minneapolis, recognized an invaluable opportunity when asked by TIES Conference organizers to plan an internet safety workshop for technology teachers. Since a primary concern for teachers is safeguarding students from online predators, she invited Daryl Hulce from the FBI-SOS office to introduce the FBI-SOS Challenge. "The FBI-SOS program is a nice extra tool to be able to refer people to when they request information about internet safety," says Froehle. The presentation resulted in 15 Minneapolis area schools registering to participate in the program.

Knowing that Daryl Hulce would be in Minneapolis for a few days, Froehle saw another opportunity to promote the FBI-SOS program and scheduled Hulce to speak at the quarterly FBI

Citizens Academy Alumni Association (FBICAAA) meeting. Hulce encouraged alumni to raise awareness for the FBI-SOS program by reaching out to local schools. FBICAAA board member Denny Walsh did just that – he immediately scheduled an appointment to discuss the program with the principal at his children's school, Valley View Middle.

With the principal on board (thanks to Walsh's involvement) and the technology teacher trained and ready to implement (thanks to the internet safety workshop), students at Valley View Middle began participating in the FBI-SOS program



Valley View Middle School students and representatives from the Minneapolis FBI Office at the awards ceremony in Edina, MN

immediately. "I gave it a try in January. My first semester students loved it. So when I had new students in February for the second semester, I did it again" says Buckley, "It was a great way to educate kids about potential dangers on the internet and how to be safe." According to Buckley, his students "loved the competition!"

The FBI-SOS program, free and available to middle schools nationwide, consists of a pre-quiz that tests students' current knowledge of the internet, a scavenger hunt where students discover tips on how to safely surf the web, and a post-quiz that measures what they have learned. At the end of each month, the school that has accumulated the most quiz points is declared the FBI-SOS national winner.

Valley View, the first Minnesota school to participate, had a total of 243 students taking the FBI-SOS (Safe Online Surfing) Internet Challenge during January and February. Their outstanding performance earned them a visit from the FBI and two trophies. Congratulations, Valley View!



An Ammons Middle School student presents recognition plaque to Special Agent Jim Lewis and Community Outreach Specialist Jeff Greene from the Miami FBI Office

Competition for the Monthly FBI-SOS National Trophy Stiffens as Students' Scores Rise

As more schools implement the FBI-SOS (Safe Online Surfing) Internet Challenge, students across the country are scoring higher than ever on internet safety quizzes designed to help them recognize and react to online dangers.

Scores among the top 20 students from every winning school this year have been trending upward since October from an average of 7,249 at Herbert A. Ammons Middle School in Miami, FL to 7,356 at Valley View Middle in Minnesota, the February winner. The majority of these students have scored more than 7,300 points on the post-quiz which means they answered all 15 questions correctly in just minutes.

"Our goal is to make learning about internet safety fun and we're happy to see increased competition among participating schools. It is the competitive nature of the program that helps motivate students to learn the safety tips and perform well on the post-quiz," says Daryl Hulce, FBI-SOS Program Administrator.

Students' scores earn them an FBI-SOS ranking. The rankings help students and their teachers better understand the internet safety skill level they have achieved.

FBI-SOS Post-Quiz Scores and Rankings

7,000 and above.....	Special Agent
6,500 – 6,999	Agent
5,700 – 6,499	Jr. Agent
0 – 5,699.....	Cadet in Training

"SOS Special Agents" understand how to recognize most online dangers and report suspicious behaviors to the appropriate adult or agency. "SOS Agents" also have many safe online surfing skills and can recognize many tactics used by predators.

It is recommended that "SOS Jr. Agents" receive more internet safety training because they may be unprepared to react to dangerous online situations. And, "Cadets in Training," are advised not to use the internet without direct adult supervision until they receive more safety instruction.

Because the monthly competitions are heating up, participating students are working harder than ever to score more than 7,000 points on the post-quiz for a chance at winning the National FBI-SOS Trophy and a visit from the FBI. Are your students "SOS Special Agents?"

"It is the competitive nature of the program that helps motivate students to learn the safety tips and perform well on the post-quiz"



What you post online stays online - forever!!!! So thinkb4uClick!

What is the FBI-SOS Internet Challenge?

The FBI-SOS (Safe Online Surfing) Internet Challenge is a FREE, educational, online program that teaches middle school students how to recognize and react to online dangers. Each month middle schools across the country participate in the FBI-SOS Internet Challenge and compete for the National FBI-SOS Trophy.

The program consists of a pre-quiz that tests students' current knowledge of the internet, a scavenger hunt where students discover tips on how to safely surf the web, and a post-quiz that measures what they have learned.

At the end of each month, the school that has accumulated the most quiz points is declared the FBI-SOS national winner.

To date approximately 20,000 middle school students in 27 states have participated in the program.

For more information about the FBI-SOS program or to register your school, please log on to www.fbi-sos.org.



Students are directed to pre-screened websites that contain internet safety tips during the online Scavenger Hunt



A safe screen name does not reveal any personal information that a predator might use to find you in the real world

Understanding Grooming

Although the internet has become an invaluable resource to users of all ages, some of the same technologies that were developed to enhance the way we communicate and socialize are being abused by sexual predators. Currently, the internet is the number one tool used by sexual predators who are trying to victimize young people. The main aim of these predators is to meet with a child or young person in the real world for sexual purposes.

Sexual predators continually troll the internet looking for child targets. They browse personal profiles that children, typically 12- to 15-year-olds, post on social networking sites or instant message services. Sometimes they will collect information on particular children before trying to make contact and other times, they'll make an immediate contact if the child seems lonely or their postings seem provocative.

By using manipulative tactics including flattery, sympathy, intimidation, and offers of gifts, money or modeling jobs, internet predators trick their prey into trusting them by "grooming" them. "Grooming" is the process used by pedophiles to lure children or teenagers

they target online to meet with them face-to-face. Many times, internet predators will spend weeks or months "grooming" their targets before arranging a meeting in the real world.

Everyday, somewhere, a child is being victimized online. To help students protect themselves, make them aware of the dangers and how to react to them. According to iSafe America, it is important to teach students the 4 Rs: Recognize, Refuse, Respond, and Report.

Recognize techniques used by internet predators to groom and deceive their victims. **Refuse** all requests for personal information (name, address, phone, school name), refuse to keep the relationship secret, and refuse to meet. **Respond** assertively by exiting the program (chat room, instant messenger, or online game), logging off, or turning off the computer. **Report** suspicious or dangerous behavior.

The internet has become the sexual predator's playground, however, with active parental involvement and internet safety education at home and in school, young people will be more prepared to recognize and react to online dangers.



"Many times, internet predators will spend weeks or months 'grooming' their targets before arranging a meeting in the real world."

FBI Field Office Outreach Results

Thanks to efforts of FBI Agents, Community Outreach Specialists and FBI Citizens' Academy Alumni Associations all across the country – more and more students are learning how to stay safe online. The offices listed to the right have earned a place on the *FBI-SOS Field Office Achievement List* for the number of schools that have registered with the program from their division. Thanks to everyone who is working to keep children safe from predators.



Don't forget that your profile and MySpace forums are public spaces. Avoid posting anything that would make it easy for a stranger to find you in the real world, such as your phone number, address, IM screen name, or specific whereabouts

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Through generous donations of time, money, and resources, the following sponsors have helped us in our mission to educate our children about the dangers of internet predators:

- ◆ The Fischler School of Education and Human Services at Nova Southeastern University
- ◆ Miami FBI Office, Crimes Against Children Unit
- ◆ Time Warner Telecom
- ◆ Miami Dolphins
- ◆ The Enlightenment Foundation
- ◆ Common Knowledge Scholarship Foundation

Get Involved!

- 1. Implement the Program at Your School**
Log on to www.fbi-sos.org and register your school!
- 2. Sponsor an FBI-SOS Scavenger Hunt Page**
By sponsoring a page, tens of thousands of students will be directed to your website to pick up an internet safety tip.
- 3. Help Spread the Word**
Visit schools in your area and tell teachers and administrators how they can participate. Forward potential sponsors to hulce@cksf.org or contact us for additional ideas.



FBI Field Office Achievement List

SOS Champions
(50+ registered schools)
Miami

SOS Crusaders
(20-49 registered schools)
Philadelphia
Minneapolis

SOS Promoters
(10-19 registered schools)
Cleveland
Tampa

SOS Advocates
(5-9 registered schools)
Seattle
Charlotte



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Taking action to prevent crimes against children



Photo Gallery



1. Special Agent in Charge, Ralph Boelter, presents trophies to principal, Shawn Dudley, at Valley View Middle School, January & February 2008 winners 2. Special Agent Kevin Saito awards a certificate of appreciation to a Lake Stevens High School student who taught internet safety to middle school students 3. Students at the November 2007 winning school, Cavelero Mid-High School in Everett, WA, present recognition plaque to FBI 4. Lake Stevens Middle School students, December FBI-SOS winners, and their peer educators 5. Special Agent Jim Lewis and Jeff Greene pose with top scoring students at the October winning school, Ammons Middle, in Miami, FL

Peer Teaching Pays Off with FBI-SOS

Two Seattle area middle schools were FBI-SOS national winners thanks in part to the internet safety instruction they received from Lake Stevens High School students.

Under the direction of teacher Kathy Hahn, members of the Family Career and Community Leaders of America at Lake Stevens High School visited two Everett middle schools and delivered internet safety lessons featuring the FBI-SOS program. Those lessons paid off for students at Cavelero Mid-High School in Everett, WA when they earned the highest scores in the nation on the November FBI-SOS post-quiz. The high school students then delivered the message to Lake Stevens Middle School who went on to win the December FBI-SOS contest.

FBI agents awarded students at both schools in January with a National FBI-SOS Trophy for their

achievements. Special Agent Kevin Saito spoke to the students and stressed the importance of using technology safely.



Peer educators from Lake Stevens High School in Everett, WA with Special Agent Kevin Saito and COS Joanna Trebaczewski

Congratulations to the middle school students at Cavelero and Lake Stevens for their hard work and thank you to the Lake Stevens High School students who helped them achieve this honor.



Report illegal online behaviors to the **CyberTipline** hosted by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at www.cybertipline.com